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Indiana: Carrying the Torch for Others

Do you remember the good ol' days, back when the first Coke bottle was made and the first tomato juice was served? I can't believe that our small, Midwest state, Indiana, has had these and so many other firsts.

Did you know Indiana is rich in history with food? French Lick was the first place in the world to serve tomato juice in 1917. The cook ran out of orange juice and needed a fast substitute, so he created tomato juice! The first Coca-Cola bottle was produced in Terre Haute by Root Glass Company in 1899, which made the famous bottle. Here's an interesting fact: Even today, over 90% of the world's popcorn is produced right here in Indiana.

We may be good cooks, but we are great engineers too! The first garbage disposal was installed in the 1950s in Jasper, taking the lead in requiring one in each new home built. The first electric street lights were made in Wabash City. That really flipped a switch and lit up the entire U.S. Sylvanus Bower invented the gas pump in Fort Wayne and has been helping us all start our engines ever since.

Speaking of transportation, what if I said Indiana has done amazing things in this industry? Aviatix Amelia Earhart taught at Purdue University. She was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. The Indianapolis 500, the greatest spectacle in racing, was the first long distance auto race in the U.S. Indiana's motto, "The Crossroads of America," is absolutely true. Indiana has more than 12,000 miles of roads that connect east to west and everything in between.

All these facts are fascinating! Indiana has always carried the torch, on its flag, and with its firsts. You should go find more Indiana facts and surprise yourself!